

Publications of the Week

PP2A Inhibition Sensitizes Cancer Stem Cells to ABL Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors in BCR-ABL⁺ Human Leukemia

First Author: Damian Lai | Senior Author: Xiaoyan Jiang (*second from left, front*)
Science Translational Medicine | Terry Fox Laboratory, the BC Cancer Agency, and UBC



Overcoming drug resistance and targeting leukemic stem cells remain major challenges in curing BCR-ABL⁺ human leukemia. Using an advanced drug/proliferation screen, the authors uncovered a prosurvival role for protein phosphatase 2A (PP2A) in tyrosine kinase inhibitor-insensitive leukemic cells, regulated by an Abelson helper integration site-1-mediated PP2A- β -catenin-BCR-ABL-JAK2 protein complex. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Non-Canonical Activation of Hedgehog in Prostate Cancer Cells Mediated by the Interaction of Transcriptionally Active Androgen Receptor Proteins with Gli3

First Author: Na Li | Senior Author: Ralph Buttyan (*second from left, front*)
Oncogene | The Vancouver Prostate Centre and UBC



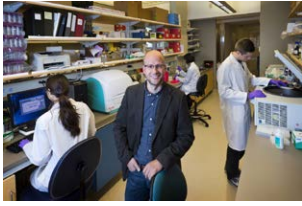
Hedgehog (Hh) is an oncogenic signaling pathway that regulates the activity of Gli transcription factors. The authors describe a non-canonical means for activation of Gli transcription in prostate cancer (PCa) cells mediated by the binding of transcriptionally-active androgen receptors to Gli3. This work identifies a novel pathway for non-canonical activation of Hh signaling in PCa cells and identifies a means for interference that may have clinical relevance for PCa patients. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

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Awards

February 2018 Award Winners

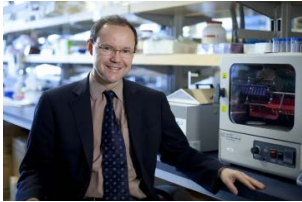
A lot of scientists received grant funding this month, including Dr. Christian Steidl (*pictured*) of the BC Cancer Agency, who was awarded a CIHR Grant in Genomics and Personalized Health. Find out which other Vancouver researchers were awarded grants, awards, fellowships, or scholarships this past February in the



Science in the City monthly awards summary! [Read More](#)

Dr. David Huntsman Receives 2018 Aubrey J. Tingle Prize

Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research



World-renowned expert in cancer genetics, Dr. Huntsman is the recipient of the 2018 Aubrey J. Tingle Prize. Created in honour of the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Science's founding president & CEO, this award is given annually to a BC clinician scientist whose work in health research has had a significant impact on advancing research and improving health, and the health system, in BC and beyond. [Read More](#)

Order of Canada Awarded to SFU's Bob Hogg

SFU Faculty of Health Sciences



Dr. Robert Hogg (*right*) has been inducted as a member of the Order of Canada thanks to his extensive contributions to HIV/AIDS research. Dr. Hogg has been a member of the SFU Health Sciences Faculty since 2006, where he helped to establish the SFU Interdisciplinary Research Centre for HIV. As a member of the faculty, Dr. Hogg is well known for his modesty, his ongoing research into HIV, his ability to secure lucrative grants, and his skill as a mentor. [Read More](#)

Mitacs Named One of BC's Top Employers for 2018

Mitacs



The editors of Canada's Top 100 Employers have named Mitacs, a national not-for-profit organization, as one of British Columbia's top employers for 2018. The award reflects excellence in social, financial, and professional aspects of the workplace and employee experience. The editors considered Mitacs for its commitment to creating a positive experience at all stages of employees' lives and careers.

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Local News

An Under-the-Radar Immune Cell Shows Potential in Fight Against Cancer

UBC Faculty of Medicine

One of the rarest of immune cells, unknown to scientists a decade ago, might prove to be a potent weapon in stopping cancer from spreading in the body, according to new research from UBC. Dr. Wilf Jefferies (*left*) and his team have concluded that



ILC2 cells play a crucial role in preventing or slowing metastasis in lung and prostate cancer by unleashing the killing power of T-cells, another type of immune cell that kills cancer cells on contact. [Read More](#)

Do Men's Toenails Contain Clues About Prostate Cancer Prevention?

UBC Faculty of Medicine



A project analyzing men's toenails to find clues about prostate cancer prevention has been funded by Prostate Cancer Canada and the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation. Led by Dr. Trevor Dummer at UBC, the project will receive \$180,000 over two years to measure individual exposures to toxic metals that are known carcinogens and may cause prostate cancer. [Read More](#)

Identifying Treatment-Resistant Prostate Cancer Faster

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



Patients can now know whether they have treatment-resistant prostate cancer from a simple blood test—giving clinicians additional time to administer alternative therapies. The promising finding is a result of a new study co-authored by Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute researcher Dr. Alexander Wyatt. The study was the first to directly investigate which of abiraterone and enzalutamide were the most effective at treating prostate cancer. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Canadian Science Wins Billions in New Budget

Nature



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's administration released its 2018 budget on February 27th and scientists couldn't be happier. It includes almost \$4 billion in new funding for science over the next five years, a significant portion of which will go to the country's three granting councils. This is in contrast to the \$1 billion in new science funding contained in last year's budget — almost none of which went to basic research. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

March 7 - 9
8:00 AM

Applications of the Hematopoietic Progenitor Assay Training Course

STEMCELL Technologies

March 7 - 8
8:00 AM

Standardization of the Hematopoietic Progenitor Assay Training Course

STEMCELL Technologies

March 7
5:15 PM

Wonder Women Networking Evening

Telus World of Science

March 8
5:00 PM

Careers Fair and Networking Event 2018

Life Sciences Institute

March 13
5:30 PM

Medical Aid in Dying in Canada

Alice Mackay Room, Vancouver Public Library

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Science Jobs in Vancouver

Scientist, Nanomaterials Analytical Chemistry

STEMCELL Technologies

Research Technologist

STEMCELL Technologies

Formulation Scientist

Precision NanoSystems

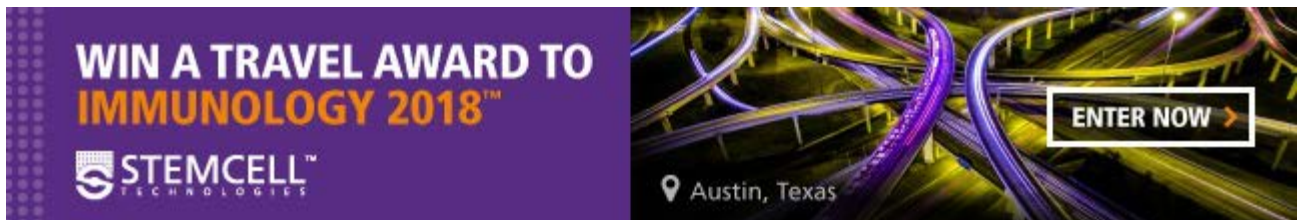
Director, Pharmaceutical Development, Drug Product

Aquinox Pharmaceuticals


Coordinator, Project Search & Evaluation


The Centre for Drug Research and Development

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